

12-18-1984

Newspeak Volume 12, Issue 24, December 18, 1984

The Students of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Happy Holidays

Bookswap is Back

by Joe Gammal
Class '86 Representative

Once again the class of 1986 is sponsoring the WPI Bookswap. If you want to clear your shelves of those unwanted books and earn some money at the same time, or if you want to get a break on skyrocketing prices of new textbooks, come to the Bookswap.

The service will be provided during the first four days of C-term, January 15 through January 18, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Upper Wedge. Those who would like their course books sold are asked to present their texts

along with a reasonable selling price to workers in the Wedge. To help ensure the sale of all books, only those that are required in C-term will be accepted. A list of those will be provided at collection tables. As soon as course books are received they will be classified by subject and put up for sale. On the final day of the Bookswap, Friday, January 18, money and/or unsold books will be returned to the owners.

More than 80% of the books offered were sold at past Bookswaps. The sooner you bring them in, the better the chance to sell them. You have nothing to lose and dollars to gain!!

A Look Back at 1984

As the year 1984 draws to a close, **Newspeak** marks the end of a year which has been both productive and rewarding for its staff and, it is to be hoped, its readers.

As was noted in the first issue of the year (January 31, 1984—Volume 12, Number 1) the *Tech News* was renamed **Newspeak** on March 6, 1973. The title was intentionally ambiguous, intended to spark people's curiosity as to whether there was any intended allusion to George Orwell's novel *1984*.

We have the benefit of seeing things from an after-the-fact perspective—eleven months after the name change and after 1984 is close to its ends. We can see that the year has not brought the sort of omnipresent eyes and ears that personified Big Brother in the novel, and we can believe, at least, that those horrors are not

soon to come.

We at **Newspeak** hope, however, that another vision of the future has at least partially been fulfilled. We hope that we have been, as the 1973 editors intended, "a campus oriented forum of both news and opinion." We further hope to continue to improve and "offer many different features that will interest different segments of the WPI community."

So we look forward to 1985 and Volume 13. We hope to continue to do a good job, and in fact do a better one. As always, we need help and support from the campus community. So be active; write, take photos, proofread—there is a place for just about everyone on the **Newspeak** staff.

A happy and healthy 1985 to the people of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

WPI Newspeak

The student newspaper of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Volume 12, Number 24

Tuesday, December 18, 1984



Santa Visits WPI

by Jim Goodell
Newspeak Staff

Wednesday, December 12, 1984, will be a day marked in the history books as the day Santa Claus visited WPI.

And what a glorious day it was. Santa arrived at five o'clock sharp to the enthusiastic cheers of his fans. The young and old gathered that day to see beloved St. Nicholas. He arrived via reindeer and sleigh which he landed on the roof of the Wedge. (It wasn't the smoothest landing in the world. DAKA reported a few broken dishes and Intra-campus Mail—sometimes mistakenly called "Inter-campus Mail"—reported some missing mail, although that is probably not traceable to Santa.)

As Santa entered the Wedge the crowd went wild, and as he took his place on the large red

this time. They were working overtime at the pole trying to catch up with this year's production schedule.

"It seems that each time the economy in the U.S. looks optimistic the gift requests increase proportionally there. I don't understand it," said Mr. Claus. He assured me, as one of his substitute elves, that despite the increased demand, his real elves would be able to fill most of this year's orders.

"This year, we haven't had anything catch us off guard. Last year it was those damned cabbage patch dolls—we just didn't have the raw materials," he said.

Santa hired some temporary elves for his appearance at WPI. They were from '87 Elf-temp Inc. and were highly recommended by Santa for anyone who needs to hire an elf on a temporary basis. (Elves can be booked by writ-

Have Yourself a Merry Daka...

Food Service Holds Annual Feast

by Helen Webb
Newspeak Staff

Wednesday, December 12, WPI's food service held its annual Christmas dinner special, featuring a meal served by the WPI faculty and staff, carols by the WPI's women's chorale, and a guest appearance by North Pole's most

Those serving also enjoyed the occasion. Professor Bruce McQuarrie, head of the Mathematics Department, likes the annual meal because it is "a chance to have more contact with students, and to lessen the gap between faculty and students outside classes." Dean van Alstyne commented that students



Santa and helpers pose for photographs in Wedge.

Photo by: Jon Waples

throne reserved for him they broke out in song. After several choruses of "Here Comes Santa Claus" the group lined up in hopes of getting the chance to sit on Mr. Claus' lap.

It was a truly emotional experience for those who actually had the chance to sit on the immortal saint's lap. One such participant, 21-month-old Matthew, was so overcome that he broke out into tears of joy as he approached Santa. The event was recorded on film as a permanent reminder of the joyous moment. Some day Matthew will be able to show the photos to his great-grandchildren and brag of the day that he actually sat on Santa.

Santa's regular elves did not travel with him

ing the president of Elf-temp, Kevin Szeredy, at Box 979. Fees are negotiable.)

Santa didn't turn anyone away and stayed past his scheduled departure time to make sure that all his admirers had the chance to receive a personal Christmas greeting from Father Christmas himself.

There are a few people who sit in sad regret for having missed this historic event. These folks will never forget having passed up such a wonderful opportunity. They have not given up hope however; it is rumored that the man in red will make an encore appearance at WPI next year.



Enthusiastic students react well to Daka meal.

Photo by: Mark Wartski

famous resident.

According to Tom Piascik, Director of Food Service, the annual meal is meant "to be something special. It's a time for students to be served, for once." He said that the meal was held one week prior to the formal last day of classes so that as many people as possible could be served.

The students seemed to enjoy the meal, and were generously impressed by the food and quality of the service. The atmosphere created by caroling, the decorations, and the faculty and staff wearing Santa hats were also appreciated. Said one math major, "It's so Christ-masy!!!"

this year were a pleasure to serve and were the politest ever.

The meal of prime rib of beef, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, rolls, salad, fruit cup, and apple cherry strudel was served to over 800 students by approximately 40 volunteers from the faculty, staff, administration, custodial staff, and grounds crew. All of the dining areas in Morgan, as well as the lower Wedge, were used.

Piascik wishes to thank the women's chorale for entertaining students in line, Lens and Light for doing the lighting, and all the faculty and staff members who served for their help.

STAFFITORIALS

A Year In Review

This being my twenty-fourth and last issue, I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to both the readers and staff at **Newspeak**.

1984 has been a year of change for both the paper and the school. The new dorm is being constructed, and Washburn renovations are complete, and ABET has revisited the campus. Who knows how The Plan will change in years to come for the sake of appeasing an accreditation board?

Newspeak also has had many changes—a new typestyle, a new printing company, a new

computer. The 1984 editorial board proved to be a talented and dedicated group of people who spent many hours working for the paper, whether writing, laying out or managing.

I believe that the new editorial board, headed by Howard Bernard, will continue making improvements. I wish them and everyone involved with the paper luck in their future endeavors as my term as editor-in-chief draws to a close.

—Kirsten L. Storm
Editor-in-Chief

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8-9, 11-12, 2-4
Tuesday	11-12, 3-4
Wednesday	9-12
Thursday	3-4
Friday	8-10, 2-5

Letters Policy

WPI **Newspeak** welcomes letters to the editor. Letters submitted for the publication should be typed (double spaced) and contain the typed or printed name of the author as well as the author's signature. Letters should contain a phone number for verification. Students submitting letters to the editor should put their class year after their name. Faculty and staff should include their full title. Letters deemed libelous or irrelevant to the WPI community will not be published.

The editors reserve the right to edit letters for correct punctuation and spelling. Letters to the editor are due by noon on the Saturday preceding publication. Send them to WPI box 2700 or bring them to the **Newspeak** Office, Riley 01.

Commentary articles reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily **Newspeak**.

Newspeak

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A Christmas Chat

by Howard B. Bernard
News — Features Editor

Well, Christmas is coming and I won't have another chance to speak with you until after the break, so I thought I'd take a moment from thinking about the Grinch and that cool piano solo in the Charlie Brown Christmas special to talk with you about my thoughts about Christmas.

Christmas is that time of year when most of us are happy and warm. We share our material and fraternal joy with everyone—family, friends, the lady whose packages we knock over in the mall. It is these feelings of generous bonhomie that make Christmas my favorite season of the year.

But I think that now is an especially good time to remember that there are people in our world (for indeed it belongs to all of us, every single being on the planet) who cannot share the joy of the Christmas season or any other. There are men and women, boys and girls living in areas where war destroys any chance for a normal existence, however hard we try to forget that there are dozens of bloody wars going on all over the globe right now; there are people who live in nations where the government, junta or dictator-of-the-day denies them even the most basic of the freedoms which we count as part of our lives every day; and there are human beings living in such disease, filth, squalor and poverty that it should shame us to

even think of complaining about our headcold, the stain on our shirt, or our food bills. These people endure the unbearable.

It is these people who need our concern. The problems of hunger, stifling rulers and the worry of being shot by someone who doesn't like your skin tone or was aiming at the Communist behind you when you got in the way, make our moaning about how much we overate at the Christmas feast seem ridiculously petty.

I don't propose that we give up our Christmas pleasures. I certainly don't want to make you feel guilty about enjoying your holidays; giving up our privileges will not help those who don't have them. Indeed, since we are denizens of this world, giving up the benefits we call ours is contrary to what would be our aim: making it possible for all the people in this world, including ourselves, to enjoy the freedom and privileges we now enjoy. But we are failing our duty to the world if we enjoy the holidays without resolving to use our position as comfortable members of the richest, most influential society on our planet to improve the lot of the millions of people who are not so lucky.

I hope that when we come back from Christmas break we will be moving to change the world for the better. It has to start with us, you know—there is no one else to do it. Perhaps next year more people will be able to enjoy as happy a Christmas as I wish you now.

Merry Christmas to you all, my friends.

COMMENTARY

Out of Turn:

Gifts From Fate

by David F. Wall
Newspeak Staff

Well, here it is, the last column of B-Term, and the last column of 1984. Christmas is nearly upon us, and with the spirit of giving everywhere about, I can't help but think about some of the good deals I've managed to pull off recently. It seems kind of silly to be writing this at the moment when the entire campus is busy trying to get through the end of the term in one piece, but by the time you get this it ought to be all over but the shouting.

A pause while you get the shouting over with.

In any event, here's the annual look at the gifts fate has managed to give me. And if you give it a little thought, you'll probably come up with a few of your own, too.

Well, starting in the center and working outwards, I have once again managed to come on something decent in the way of living quarters. After spending many months thinking I was going to be stuck living in a dorm, I managed to get a campus apartment and two roommates who don't seem any stranger than I am. So let's hear it for Fuller 14.

I'm halfway through my senior year, and it looks like I may get a degree before I run out of money. And as I am finally confronting the fact that I am going to have to go out and live in the real world, I am also realizing that I may actually be ready to do something when I get there. So let's hear it for The Plan. It may not be around for us to cheer much longer.

Next we hit Highland Street, and there's a few goodies there. First there's Store 24, which may not be quite what Day-Nite was but certainly beats having nothing at all. Where else can you get junk food, newspapers, and a few quick games of Elevator Action all at four in the morning?

Then, for me, there's 135 Highland, where there's always some good chat and the opportunity to catch Inspector Gadget on the tube

after a day of academic insanity. Doctor Claw would have had some interesting opinions on what the ABET could do with their distribution requirements.

And then there's the Boynton. Some people have nasty things to say about the Boynton. Okay, so it's not Maxwell Silverman's, but it cannot be denied that the Boynton and this campus enjoy a terrific symbiotic relationship. They also kept me alive during the last week of Advanced Operating Systems. So let's hear it for the Boynton.

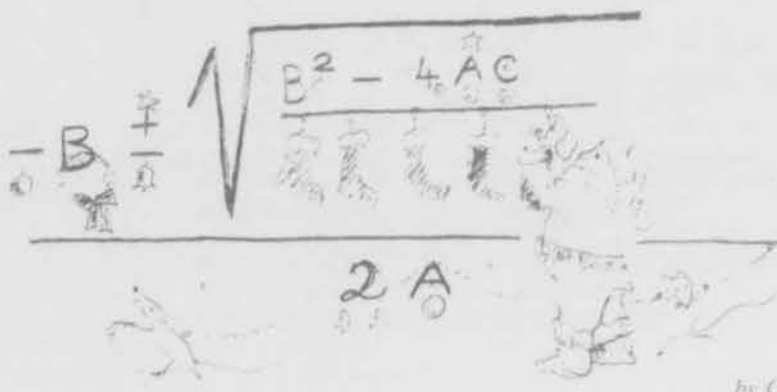
Speaking of classes, there's my two Advanced Operating Systems partners. Real good stuff, ladies. Let's hear it for you. It didn't get perfect, and we certainly could have lived without the #&\$%&*&e(c5%#%(! DecSystem-20 going down at a quarter past three. And anyone willing to put a part of their grade in the trust of my twisted mentality deserves some sort of recognition in any case. This also goes for my MQP partner and the people who go out to Andover every Wednesday. It makes it all bearable.

And coming to travelling, I'd like to thank my car, which puts up with considerably more abuse than anything that ever came off the Mercedes test track. Like the guy in the watch commercials said, it takes a licking and keeps on ticking.

Thanks to the United States Government, for managing to fight among itself long enough to let the country get through the year.

Hooray for Hollywood, for cranking out a few decent films this year. And to the people who run That's Entertainment on Chandler Street, champions of the principle that what Worcester needs is a lot of good fifty-cent comic books.

And finally, thanks to you, the readers. I know you're out there. I can hear you breathing. Thanks for taking the time to look at this, this week and every week. Without you, I'd talk to myself more than I already do.



by Call Cook

LIMERICKS

by Cari Cook

"The Christmas Party"

An attractive young woman from Tech
Waking up to find bites on her neck
Recalled that while pissed
'Neath the mistletoe kissed
But she thought it was only a peck.
(pissed—English slang for drunk)

"Advice on Christmas Lists"

Write a list of what you'd like to see
On Christmas day under the tree
Go Xerox it off
And bring one to each Prof
At the top of the list: "an AD".

Psychspeak

...Some Thoughts from
Student Counseling Center...

On Being Assertive

Most of us have probably at one time or another been in the following situation. While you are waiting in a store for the clerk to finish with the customer ahead of you, another customer comes in and the clerk waits on him before you. How would you react to this? One way would be to say nothing and continue to wait for the clerk to notice you while boiling inside; this is an example of *nonassertive behavior*. Or you could scream at the clerk, "I was here first," and punch the guy ahead of you; this would be an *aggressive* response. Neither of these methods would probably get you what you want, which is to be waited on by the clerk, nor will your resulting feelings be comfortable. In the first, passive response, you may feel you are being pushed around, taken advantage of, and began to store up a heavy burden of resentment and anger. With the aggressive style of fighting, accusing and threatening people without regard for their feelings, you may feel guilty or find that others do not want to be around you.

An *assertive* response to the above situation would be to politely but firmly say to the person in front of you, "Excuse me, but I was here first." In this way you are standing up for yourself while being considerate of the other's feelings. This type of behavior is in your own best interest because you have more chance of getting

what you want (in this case, the clerk's attention) and you will not feel guilty or wrong about it.

Passive and aggressive styles often fail to get you what you want and can create more pain and stress than they prevent. Meekness and withdrawal, attack and blame are not needed when you practice assertive behavior. You are assertive when you stand up for your rights in such a way that the rights of others are not violated. Beyond just demanding your rights you can express your personal likes and interests spontaneously; you can talk about yourself without being self-conscious; you can accept compliments comfortably; you can disagree with someone openly; you can ask for clarification; you can say "No." In short, when you are an assertive person you can be more relaxed in the interpersonal situations.

Assertiveness training has been found to be effective in dealing with depression, anger, resentment and interpersonal anxiety, especially when these symptoms have been brought about by unfair circumstances. This short column may help you begin to adjust your personal style, but should you desire more information you may want to consider attending the Assertiveness Training Seminar offered by the Student Counseling Center or consulting with a counselor individually.

Project Report

MGE Project To Aid G.E.

by Dan Laprade
Newspeak Staff

With company competition so fierce there is always a push toward establishing a better efficiency rating. Some companies seek help from various consulting firms while others seek the assistance of WPI's undergraduate project system. General Electric is hoping that the MQP group of Jeff Horowitz, Amaro Goncalves, Franz Roesner, and Mary McLaughlin can improve the efficiency of its Wilmington, Ma., plant.

G.E. has been aware of problems within its plant's system, noting that it has high operating costs and that the time lag between manufacturing and sales is considered too long. They are seeking an advanced automation system design from the group and their advisors, Hans Thambain and Arthur Gerstenfeld.

The G.E. Aerospace Division in Wilmington initially bogged down the MQP team by being too vague in its problem statement. The goal of improving efficiency needed to be narrowed further to establish an approach method. "We would meet with one level of management one day," says Mary McLaughlin, "and they would head us one way, then the following week another level of management would suggest a whole new avenue of approach. Well, we went on like that for a while, until we finally held a meeting with everyone and agreed on one method of approach."

The plan they selected is similar to one G.E. uses for its defense plants. It is a method that involves six steps: 1) top-down factory analysis, 2) comparative study with current automation plans, 3) systems specifications study, 4) vendor-selection study, 5) final recommendations and 6) implementation. This type of approach involves a tremendous amount of work. The team explains that they have the time resource to tackle the first three phases, but the analysis will not be complete until a few more project

groups carry on the work they have started.

In some of their preliminary studies the project group has found several areas which the Wilmington plant can improve upon. One weak area is the stockroom techniques. Explains Jeff Horowitz: "They get a shipment of materials in, say in the morning, and it might not get recorded in the computer system until the end of the day or even the next day. Well, in the meantime, some of those materials have been taken out of the stockroom and the final result is an inaccurate inventory. We're recommending improvement in the automated stockroom."

Another area of concern is product flow. The group will suggest approaches to rerouting material the most efficient way. The team also cites an inexpensive recommendation to create "group technology work stations." Such stations combine similar work operations into the same physical area, which cuts down on wasted time.

All of these recommendations are relatively broad. Most of the group's efforts thus far have been to establish a plan of approach. They have done some systems analysis, but it is hoped that later project groups will do the number-crunching that G.E. would like to review. Working in the same direction as the project group is G.E.'s own consulting firm. It is anticipated that the final reports of both groups will be taken into consideration when changes are to be implemented.

The team enthusiastically reports on the weight that the G.E. plant is placing on the student's work. G.E. has no intention of shelving their hard work. There have been several occasions when the company's enthusiasm was such that they had to be reminded that the project team consists of students, not professional consultants. Such evidence reveals the value that so many of our WPI project sponsors place on fine undergraduate research.

GREEK CORNER

Alpha Gamma Delta

Thank you Ginia and Stevie for putting so much work into the Christmas party. It was a lot of fun for all. It was great to see some of our alumni there. Congratulations to Jodi Griesemer—the new social committee chairman. Good Luck to all of the seniors who are taking their comps. Everyone, have a safe and happy holiday.

Alpha Chi Rho

We would like to announce the new officers of Alpha Chi Rho for the coming year. President, Jim Nichols; Vice President, Rich Rydant; Ritual Officer, Steve Mann; Chaplain, Jim Myran; Secretary, Marc Viera; Treasurer, George Graw; Sergeant at Arms, John Siegenthaler; Social Officer, Curt Duffy; Member-at-

Large, John Niedzielski; Chapter Correspondent, Chris MacDonnell; House Manager, Jimm Hannon; and Steward, Dennis Nagle. Congratulations to all, we are all excited about the future.

On Tuesday the eleventh the brothers hosted a Christmas party for the children from the Friendly House Community Center. All the kids had a good time, and yes boys and girls Santa's nose was real.

Delta Phi Epsilon

These pledges are psyched! Nice job on the raids girls! We know where you were hiding!! Eileen would like the rest of her car back—soon!! Did somebody say "panty raid"? Don't forget your secret sisters. Get psyched for the Christmas party and get out there and get those signatures.

The Voice of Christmas Future

(Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of an editorial which first ran in the December 16, 1969, issue of the Tech News. Its author was features editor Glenn White.)

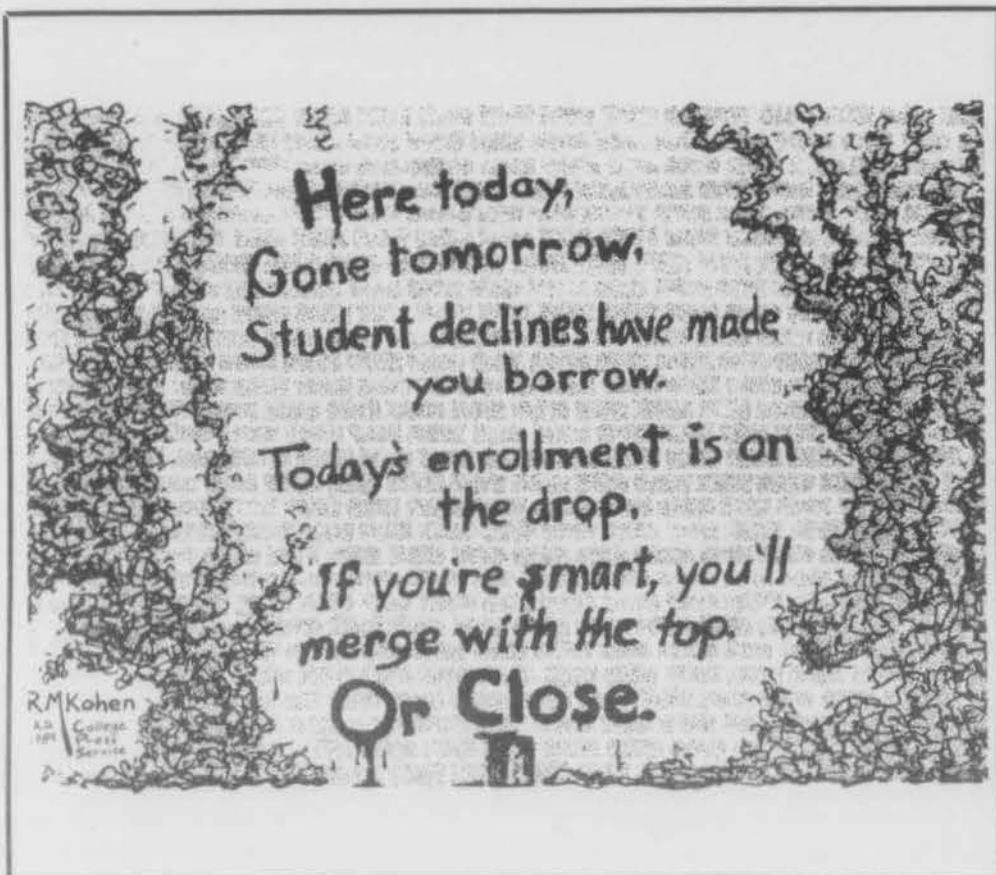
Charles Dickens' Christmas classic, a Christmas Carol, contains the familiar passage in which Dickens is confronted by three ghosts—the Ghosts of Christmas Past, of Christmas Present, and of Christmas Future. In this Christmas season, America lies in a parallel situation as three voices can be heard.

The Voice of Christmas Present belongs to Milton Eisenhower and the "Violence Commission," who published their final report last week and called for a reordering of national priorities to emphasize domestic needs instead of defense and military needs. They repeated the warning so often heard in the past year: "While serious external dangers remain, the graver threats are internal: haphazard urbanization, racial discrimination, disfiguring of the environment, unprecedented interdependence, the dislocation of human identity and motivation created by an affluent society—all resulting in a rising tide of individual and group violence." That conclusion came after 18 months of work by some of the foremost American citizens of both liberal and conservative political leaning.

The Voice of Christmas Past sounds very similar. The Riot Commission, while compiling a list of very specific objectives on how to prevent future black riots from occurring, heard Dr. Kenneth Clark comment on the repetitiveness of warnings to America, "I read that report of the 1919 riot in Chicago, and it is as if I were reading the report of the investigating committee on the Harlem riot of 1935, the report of the McCone Commission on the Watts riots. I must again in candor say to you members of this Commission—it is a kind of Alice in Wonderland with the same moving picture shown over and over again, the same analysis, the same recommendations, and the same inaction." The warning to act on the problems of the cities, the black, and the poor has been sounded and ignored throughout America's history.

The lines for the Voice of Christmas Future in America are being composed now. It could read "On Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men," that ancient line which has stirred hopes throughout the ages. But I hear another Voice of Christmas Future—and a voice that can only sound louder if we fail to listen to the voices of Christmas Present and Past. It is the voice of violence, of injustice, and of—ultimately—dictatorship.

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.



Christmas Comes to W

by Howard Bernard
News and Features Editor

As the end of the term approached last Friday afternoon, the campus was very active. Preparations were under way for the annual President's Christmas Party; students and faculty were headed for Happy Hour; and other campus people were going about their business. I wondered what all these people were thinking and decided to look for some end-of-term thoughts and Christmas spirit.

Photographer Nelson Kuo and I started our search in the Wedge, where the first person we met was Andy Ripanti, a junior EE. The thought of the Christmas holiday was very exciting to him. "It's great—I can't wait to get out of here!" he said.

But not everyone was quite as eager to leave campus as Ripanti. Over in their traditional brown-carpeted cubicle were some late-afternoon Wedge Rats. According to Frank Hunt, spokesman for the Wedge Wats (they pronounce R's and L's as if they were W's) there were several Christmas-oriented events spon-

eyes skyward—only to see Daka chief Don Hanks and some helpers wheeling by a large snowman and, on separate carts, the letters "NO" and "EL"—all made out of ice. Hanks was very concerned that the sculptures make it safely to the President's Christmas Party in Alden Hall and didn't have time to talk to us except to tell us where the sculptures were going. But Dave Lindstrom, Functions Manager for Food Service, who followed with Daka worker Mark Murphy and another crystal creation, did.

He explained that Hanks created the sculpture from large blocks of ice using either chisels or a chain saw.

We followed the hewn ice to the door of Alden, where a peek inside the door showed faculty and staff beginning their revelry at the President's Christmas Party—even without the ice.

We went over to Boynton Hall to speak to the sponsor of that merry event on the occasion of his last Christmas at Tech, but his secretary explained that he had some letters to write and

nowhere in particular.

"Pffft!" said the balloon, as its knot slipped and it jetted around the room expressively.

So on we trekked, this time to the mailroom, figuring that Barbara Hester and friends would have some interesting thoughts on the holidays, with all the extra mail they had to process—even in ordered bundles.

"I'm glad there's a break. You know why? All those Christmas cards! No reflection on you kids, but I'm glad to see you go," she said.

The mailroom was very nicely decorated on the inside. Barbara said she does it every year to

brighten the atmosphere they work in. There were other decorated spots on campus, too—the Office of Residential Life, the Pub, the Wireless Association's antenna on top of Salisbury, and others. These added to the Yuletide feeling on campus.

So we decided to head down to the Pub, which was a decked hall and where students and faculty had already begun to enjoy some Happy Hour merry-making.

Judie O'Coin, a senior MGE, said she was "psyched [for break] but not for the Comp," which she plans to take over Intercession.

We asked Mary Cardoza if she was looking



(left to right) Jim Shea, yellow balloon, Rich Belcinski.

sored by the group.

"You missed the Wedge Wat Christmas Special—we had the Grinch, the Chipmunks, the elves, mistletoe—we gave everyone a Wedge Wat Christmas." Hunt described an elaborate setup of videotapes, lights and speakers which were used to produce the extravaganza.

And the Wedge Wat Christmas Special was not the only Rat-sponsored Noel festivity. "You missed the Daka tray event!" said Joe Musmanno. The Rats built a huge pyramid, he said, built entirely of triangular unit cells of Daka trays, in the middle of the Wedge.

This is just the beginning of the resurgence of the W.R. Hunt says that for the first time in years the group has elected officers and accepted pledges. The pledges, known as "Wedge Mice," received a huge Christmas gift from the Wats at the Christmas Special. The package was about five feet by seven feet and when they tore off the wrapping—carefully applied by the women's basketball team at their Christmas wrapping booth—they discovered what their present was. It was Julian Broughton, an '88 CS.

Thinking of the possibilities of Wedge-Rat Christmases to come, Nelson and I rolled our

then he had to go to the party so he wouldn't have time to speak with us.

So we thought we should talk to van A. Who else, after all, is such a central figure in the spirit of Tech? But our own campus elf had a long line of people waiting to see him, requesting his Christmas presence, so we moved on to Salisbury Lounge.

There we found Marie Hutchinson, a sophomore ME, stretched out on a couch enjoying the Video Bulletin Board, sound asleep. We also found Deirdre Tymann, a junior ME, and asked her what she would like for Christmas.

"An IBM PC, but...I told my parents and they laughed. Julian Lennon's new album. A Mercedes-Benz 480 SL—they laughed at that too. And Paul Newman? Is that so unreasonable?"

Another academic building, Ofin Hall, and more students. In the Physics Library we found Jim Shea, Rich Belcinski, and Gail Anderson, three of the finest of the school's physics majors, batting a small yellow balloon around the room.

"I want to go home," said Rich.

"I want to sleep," said Jim.

"End of what term?" asked a voice from



Wedge Rat Frank Hunt explains his organization's yuletide whimsy.

Photos by:
Nelson Kuo



Deirdre Tymann and friend—IBM, Mercedes-Benz and Paul Newman.



Mel Woodman with the Mailroom's Christmas Creche.



The Icemen in full party dress.

PI

forward to the Christmas holidays. "I'm on Co-op so it doesn't make a difference," she said. "Oh yeah. Everyone should go on Co-op—tell them that."

Nearby was IFC President Barry Tripp. What do you want for Christmas? we asked him.

"A sixteen-year-old drinking age," he replied. "Soon there'll be only 21's in here. And [I want] a foot and a half of snow. Snow is key for Christmas."

Angela Frankudakis wanted her Comp passed—and "skis for his snow," she added, nodding toward Barry.

Angela prodded her friend at the bar to speak with us. "I don't want to say what I want

for Christmas!" said a person who later turned out to be Cheryl Macedo—or at least that's what Angela said. After a whispered consultation, Angela volunteered that what Cheryl wanted was "an unlimited supply of Kahlua."

We returned from our mission to sample the Christmas spirit with a full camera and a general idea of what WPI wanted for Christmas. And as we walked back to *Newspeak* we heard some sleigh bells and looked up to see, flying overhead, a jolly old elf (with a thick white mustache) in a sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer. And we heard him exclaim, as he drove 'cross the sky, "Merry Christmas to all...down at WPI."



Gail Anderson watches as Jim Shea plays with the yellow balloon.



Barbara Hester at the WPI Christmas Mailing Center headquarters.



Mark Murphy and Dave Lindstrom—the iceman cometh.

T'was the Night Before Christmas...

*Twas the night before Christmas and up on the hill
Not a creature was stirring—the campus was still.
The EEs were studying basics instead;
In knowledge their Comp was decidedly dead.*

*The Seniors all slept with their books by their sides
Preparing to weather their Comp boards with pride.
They'd all settled down to a long winter's nap
Briefly forgetting the doings of CAP.*

*When out on the Quad there arose such a chatter
I sprang from books to see what was the matter.
I asked all around and found out that, alas
The Double-E students had all failed to pass.*

*The moon on the breast of the greyish-brown slush
Gave a luster of Worcester to that wintry hush.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.*

*With a white-haired old gent who was guiding the way
I knew in a moment it must be Van A
More rapid than photons his brainpower came
He knew courses, and students, and called them by name.*

*"Now, Karen! Now, Bobby! Now, Danny and Kay!
On, Charlie! On, Nancy! On, Franny and Ray!
To the top of Hill, we can touch all the bases
I know all your names, I remember your faces!"*

*And then in a rush on the Hill did advance
A huge mass of students with courses advanced
Van A stroked his chin and he looked all around
At the schedules and class cards all over the ground.*

*He was dressed in a suit—quite tasteful, no flash
But his most striking feature — his bushy white 'stash.*

*Volumes and volumes he stored in his head
(And some spare information on how to bake bread).
A blackboard of courses he had at his back
For squeezing in courses he had quite a knack.*

*He talked with the students, while doing his work
And he worked out schedules, then with a jerk
And laying a finger aside of his nose
He finished the courses and homeward he strode.*

*He sprang to his sleigh, with the schedules worked out
And mine was among them, I had not a doubt.
And I heard him exclaim as he left for the night,
"Don't worry 'bout that—you are doing all right!"*



SPORTS

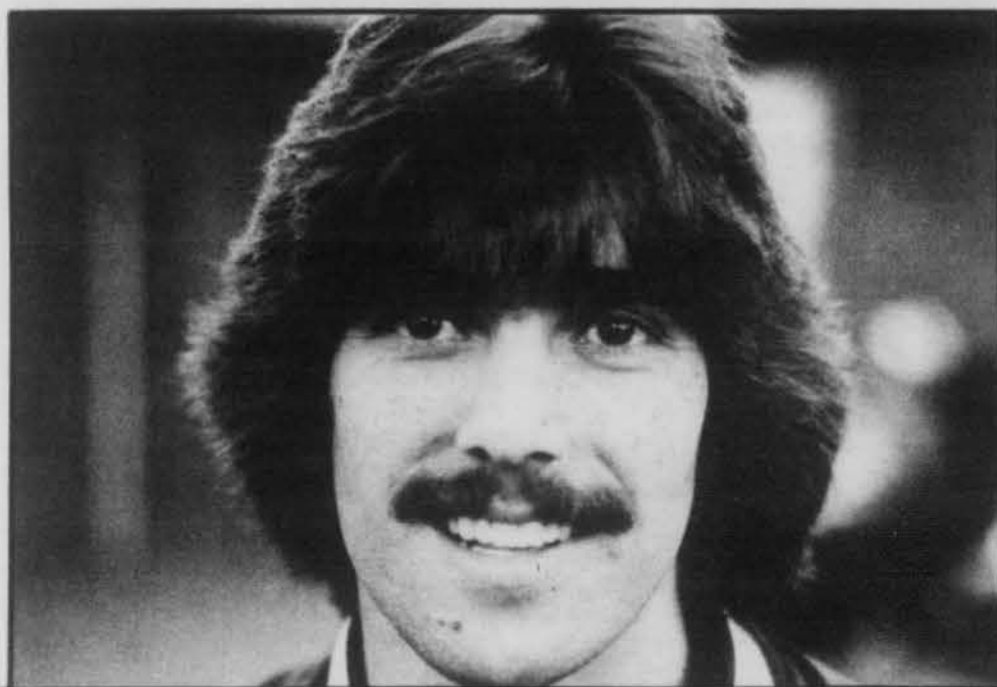
Goncalves Ends College Soccer Career on High Note

by Steve Graveline
Newspeak Staff

Though the season has been over with for a few weeks, and many thoughts have turned to basketball, wrestling, and snow, there are still a few more things to be said about WPI soccer. As for the team, it was a very successful year, but now it is time to examine a few of the individuals that were the largest contributors to the team.

It is this time of year, shortly after the conclu-

WPI. As for watching him play one can see the talent Amaro has been gifted with and it seems quite a few others have seen it also. Amaro last year was named to the All New England team and shortly after named to the Div. III All American End team. That seems quite impressive for a junior year, but as it turns out, last year's accomplishments will be left in the record books and it will be his senior year that most will remember him by. Once again Amaro made the All New England first team along with



Amaro Goncalves

— File Photo

sion of the season, that sports writers and coaches decide who they think were the finest players in New England and in the country. For anyone who knows a little bit about WPI soccer, the name Amaro Goncalves should sound familiar. He was the senior captain of this year's team and has just finished up one of the most successful soccer careers in the history of

teammates Amalimar Carneiro and Dave King who were both named to the All New England second team. Then the NCAA named Amaro to the Div. III All American first team accompanied by Amalimar who was named to the third team.

Thus, Amaro finishes his senior year with
(continued on page 7)

Nate Hanson and Chris McNeil Named Football Co-Captains for 1985

WORCESTER, Mass. — Juniors Nate Hanson (Jr., Pennsville, N.J.) and Chris McNeil (Jr., Reading, Mass.) have been elected co-captains for the 1985 Worcester Polytechnic Institute football team.

Head coach Bob Weiss, who made the announcement at the team's annual post-season banquet last Saturday night (Dec. 8), is elated with the selection of Hanson and McNeil. "The squad made two great choices for their captains," said Weiss. "I'm sure Nate and Chris will do an excellent job and will help lead WPI to its sixth straight winning season."

Hanson has been a three-year letterman at linebacker and last season, in his first full year as a starter, he finished as the sixth leading tackler on the team (48) and was second in interceptions (three). An experienced and talented indi-

vidual, he accounted for 58 tackles (36 solos) as a sophomore and 21 as a freshman.

A 1981 graduate of East Lyme High School (Conn.) — where the Hanson family lived prior to moving to Pennsville — Hanson was a three-sport letterman and captained the football and wrestling teams.

"It didn't surprise me one bit when I was told that Nate was elected co-captain," said Weiss. "He is a very disciplined and positive football player, and he has demonstrated his leadership abilities as a resident advisor on campus and through fraternal involvement. In addition, he has been an outstanding football player ever since he arrived at WPI."

McNeil, a 1981 graduate of Reading High School, has been a two-year starter at right
(continued on page 7)

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Everyone—Thanks for all the great times we spent together, this is not an ending, but a short intermission. Stick around for the second half. Love, Bad Mike

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TOM: Thanks for the CHRISTMAS LIGHTS — we'll have to walk under them again some time! P.S. Get a real major!

To all the guys at the palace: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Do the parties get better as the years go on?! Denise & Joan

Catch Dress for Success—January 31!

Mmeff, Ron, Beth, Sue, Joan, Ro-Ro, Dumas, Harry, Joyce, Ray and Megan: Best of luck on the comp—We'll all make it! Denise

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE! EVEN TRACI!

To the Weevils: You are the most special of the most special, don't change and remember—wherever you go there I'll be. Love, The Midget

Meg, You're the greatest! Merry Christmas. Denise.

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NEWSPEAK will run classifieds free for all WPI students, faculty, and staff. Free classifieds are limited to 6 lines. Those over 6 lines must be paid for at the off-campus rate of 35 cents/line. Deadline is Friday noon for the following Tuesday issue. Mail to WPI/Newspeak, Box 2700, or bring to WPI Newspeak, Room 01, basement, Sanford Riley Hall. Forms must be filled out with name, address, and phone number for ad to be printed. No last names or last name initials will be printed in personal ads.

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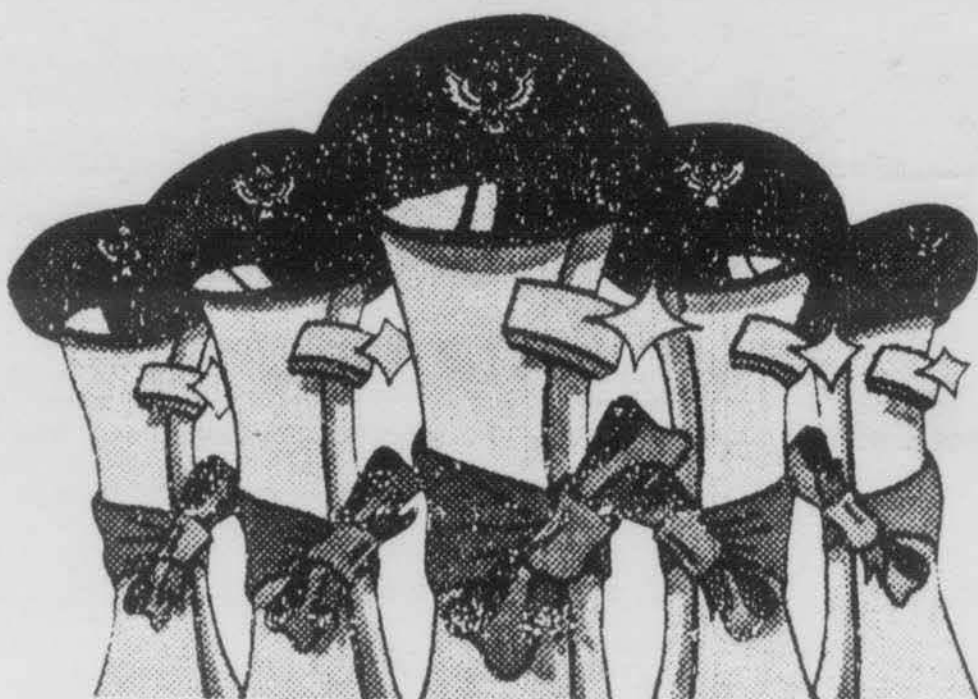
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...Soccer

(continued from page 6)

numerous honors topping those of last year and again his teammates chose him as the most valuable player of the 1984 WPI soccer team. But just when he thought all was over as a collegiate athlete, probably the greatest and most exciting honor was given to him. Amaro has now been chosen to participate in the NCAA Senior Bowl, which will be held on Dec. 22 in Tampa, Florida. When talking with Amaro he seemed most excited over the selection to the Senior Bowl, more so than any of the other honors he received. He will get a chance to play soccer amongst the best Div. I players in the country, and being chosen for the team and participating in Div. III soccer is quite an honor to him.

...Football

(continued from page 6)

guard and his play on the Engineer offensive line has enabled WPI's running attack to rank among the nation's best. This year WPI finished 16th in the nation in rushing offense with an average of 230.1 yards rushing per game. While at Reading High School, he earned two letters for head coach Jack White and was a Middlesex All-Star.

"Chris is one of the hardest working football players on the team," said Weiss. "He is a very dedicated and team oriented individual who leads by example. He'll make a fine captain."

Hanson, a mechanical engineering major, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Hanson, 24 Nichols Drive, Pennsville.

McNeil, a mechanical engineering major, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard McNeil, 37 Woodland Drive, Reading.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, December 18, 1984
10:00 a.m. — Poinsettia Sale, Wedge

Wednesday, December 19, 1984 — Hanukkah
LAST DAY OF B-TERM CLASSES

Monday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25, 1984 — Christmas Day

Monday, December 31 — New Year's Eve

Tuesday, January 1 1985 — New Year's Day

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 15 & 16
Registration Day for terms C and D classes

Thursday, January 17
FIRST DAY OF C-TERM CLASSES



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